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General Assembly
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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 1 August 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

It is with deep regret and strongest condemnation that I must inform you that, despite the efforts made for and the assurances given regarding the 72-hour humanitarian ceasefire that was jointly announced last night by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and United States Secretary of State John Kerry, Israel, the occupying Power, has continued with its killing spree against Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip, killing today more than 130 people, including many children and women. At least 28 more bodies have been recovered from under the rubble of Palestinian homes, adding to the escalating death toll.

Although the ceasefire was to go into effect today, 1 August, at 8.00 a.m. (Palestine time), the situation on the ground has further unravelled, as the Israeli occupying forces have persisted with the wanton killing of civilians and the destruction of civilian homes and properties, in particular in the south of Gaza in Rafah and Khan Younis, and the Israeli Government has issued threats of more "crushing" reprisals. Among those murdered today by the occupying forces were nine people, all from the same family (Al-Farra family), who were killed in their home in Khan Younis by Israeli tank shelling. Just hours after the above took place, the occupying Power declared that the ceasefire was effectively over due to the claimed capture of an Israeli occupying soldier in Gaza. Here it must be noted that, even after the occupying Power declared the ceasefire to be over, the Palestinian side, in its entirety, reaffirmed its respect for the ceasefire and President Mahmoud Abbas reaffirmed his commitment to dispatch a delegation representing all Palestinians to head to Cairo to engage in discussions to negotiate a durable, comprehensive ceasefire to bring an end to this horrific violence and to lift the siege of Gaza and address the longstanding, underlying causes of the current crisis.

As of today, it is estimated that over 1,600 Palestinians have been killed and over 8,700 have been injured by the Israeli occupying forces using all means of

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lethal weaponry and warfare. This shocking number of deaths does not even take into account the entire figure of those killed today in Rafah, as many remain trapped in the rubble of what were their homes. As has been the case with all past Israeli attacks against the defenceless and occupied Palestinian people in Gaza, large numbers of those killed continue to be women, children and elderly persons. Although the numbers are constantly rising, current estimates are that nearly 25 per cent of those killed in this Israeli offensive have been children, at least 12 per cent have been women and more than 60 elderly persons have been killed.

Each day that passes without an end to this barbaric Israeli aggression results in more loss of Palestinian life, more suffering and more irreversible trauma inflicted on our people. We therefore reiterate, with utmost urgency, our appeal for international protection to be provided for the Palestinian civilian population, who in Gaza are living under inhuman circumstances, with no clean water, no electricity, shortages of food, medical equipment and supplies and nowhere being safe from the Israeli onslaught. Hospitals have reached a breaking point, functioning on generators with electricity reduced to two hours a day in small parts of Gaza and zero hours a day in most parts. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) schools have reached capacity, with more than 250,000 displaced Palestinian civilians sheltering in an estimated 90 schools, a number that is four times higher than the peak number of displaced persons in the Israeli aggression of 2008-2009. Moreover, that number does not include the other hundreds of thousands of other civilians displaced from their homes, with the total number now reaching over 460,000 people, a quarter of Gaza's population. Morgues in Gaza are also filled to capacity, are over-stretched and have been inundated with bodies now laying on the floors.

The massive losses and destruction inflicted by the occupying Power have caused the dramatic deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Gaza, which has been declared a disaster area by the Palestinian leadership. In this regard, we must further underscore the urgent messages conveyed by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Valerie Amos, and by the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, Pierre Krahenbuhl, in their comprehensive briefings to the Security Council on 31 July 2014 regarding this grave humanitarian crisis and their appeals for the protection of civilians, respect for international humanitarian law and the provision of the necessary humanitarian aid to our besieged population in Gaza, which is becoming more vulnerable by the minute and suffering so immensely.

Below is a list of just a small fraction of the multiple grave violations committed by Israel, the occupying Power, many of them amounting to war crimes, which we are compelled to convey to you, since our last letter, dated 30 July 2014. We will continue to keep you informed of the escalating situation on the ground once information becomes available in order to more fully document these crimes against our people.

1 August 2014:

- 9 Palestinians of one family were killed and 16 others were injured in shelling targeting the Al-Farra family house in Khan Younis. Among the dead are: Abdulmalik Abdulsalam al-Farra (age 54), his son Usama Abdulmalik al-Farra (age 34), Imad Abdulhafiz al-Farra (age 28), Awatef Izz al-Din al-Farra (age 29), Muhammad Mahmoud al-Farra (age 12), Lujain Bassem al-Farra

(age 4), Yara Abdulsalam al-Farra (age 8), and Nadine Mahmoud al-Farra, and later Abdulrahman al-Farra (age 8) was pronounced dead when he succumbed to wounds he sustained during the shelling.

- At least 130 Palestinians have been killed today since the collapse of the ceasefire in intense shelling of Rafah by the Israeli occupying forces, including the perpetration of massacres in Rafah, where a one-ton bomb was dropped on a densely populated civilian area, and dozens more people have been killed in airstrikes and shelling of other areas.
- An Israeli airstrike hit an ambulance and killed a paramedic, Atef Zamili, and wounded seven passengers. Zamili's death brings to 16 the number of medical personnel who have been killed in Israeli strikes since the beginning of the assault 25 days ago. Moreover, this is thirteenth ambulance to be targeted in an Israeli attack.

31 July:

- Fadel Nader al-Mughazi, 27, was killed when Israeli occupying force warplanes targeted a motorcycle in eastern Rafah.
- Five Palestinians were killed in an Israeli occupying force artillery attack that targeted a group of people in the town of Abasan, south-east of Khan Younis. Among the dead were Naji Abu Mustafa, Hani Abu Mustafa, Ashraf Abu Tuaima, disabled Falastenie Abu Tuaima, and Mohammed Fuad Khamis al-Najjar.
- Adham Siyam, a child, died of his wounds, which he sustained in an Israeli bombing on Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip, a few days ago.
- Aref Barakah (age 58) was killed as an Israeli occupying force artillery shell hit his house in Deir al-Balah in central Gaza.
- A 23-year-old mother, Maha Abu-Helal, was killed, and her husband and two children were injured, when Israeli bombardment targeted her house in Rafah in the morning hours.
- Baraa Ibrahim (age 19) died of his wounds, sustained in an attack on Al-Nusseirat refugee camp.
- Ahmad Loah (age 22) died of his wounds, which he sustained in earlier Israeli shelling, while being treated at a hospital.

30 July 2014:

- An Israeli assault on the market in the Al-Shujaiya area, east of Gaza City, killed at least 17 Palestinians and injured scores of others. The assault was carried out during the period of the supposed humanitarian ceasefire on Wednesday.
- The attack on Al-Shujaiya killed three journalists — Mohammed Daher, Sameh Al-Aryan and Rami Rayyan — and killed a paramedic. In total, at least 11 journalists have been killed in Israeli strikes and bombings since the start of the aggression.

Moreover, today, 1 August, several civilian protests took place in the West Bank, in solidarity with their brothers and sisters in the besieged Gaza Strip, including in the city of Al-Khalil, where thousands of people took part in protests. As has been the case throughout the years of occupation, the occupying forces used indiscriminate, excessive lethal force that resulted in the killing and injury of more Palestinian civilians. In the city of Tulkarem in the northern West Bank, a young man, Tamer Faraj Smour, age 22, was killed by the occupying forces, and in the village of Safa, north-west of Ramallah, Odai Nafez Jabr, age 19, was killed by live fire from the occupying forces. More than 90 Palestinians in Al-Khalil alone were injured by Israeli use of live ammunition.

Israeli measures of collective punishment against the population have also continued in the West Bank, including the ongoing arrest and detention of Palestinian civilians in military raids. Israeli settler terror and violence have also persisted in this climate of aggression and hatred fomented by the Israeli Government. In this regard, on 31 July, several Israeli settlers attacked and attempted to kidnap a Palestinian youth while he was on his way to work in the village of Deir Yasin, west of Jerusalem. Ali Al-Abassi (age 21) said that settlers beat him up and pepper-sprayed his face and tied him with a rope, attempting to kidnap him. He was able to free himself from the settlers, after a failed attempt to force him in their car.

The current situation throughout the occupied State of Palestine, especially in the Gaza Strip, is beyond grave. On our part, the Palestinian leadership continues to call for respect of the 72-hour humanitarian ceasefire, with the aim of bringing an end to the slaughter of our people and an end to this crisis. The Palestinian side on all fronts is committed to the ceasefire and demands that Israel, the occupying Power, respect its commitments. In this regard, we call for all efforts to be exerted in the context of the talks planned in Cairo, through the good offices of Egypt, to immediately and concretely address the catastrophic situation in Gaza and achieve a permanent and durable ceasefire. In support of this effort and in an urgent appeal for reprieve for gravely suffering people in Gaza, we urge all members of the international community to contribute to helping solidify the 72-hour humanitarian ceasefire, which could allow for desperately needed aid to reach the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza and allow for the necessary space to deal with the far deeper-rooted issues that have for too long been ignored, with such far-reaching and disastrous consequences for so many innocent people.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 513 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 30 July 2014 (A/ES-10/646-S/2014/551), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer
of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/68/960*–S/2014/564*

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Security Council

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General Assembly
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Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Prevention of armed conflict: strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Letter dated 1 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

At its 105th plenary meeting, held on 31 July 2014, the General Assembly adopted its resolution 68/303, entitled "Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution". Taking this opportunity, I would like to convey our appreciation to the Permanent Representatives of Finland and Turkey and their teams for their leadership and skilful efforts, which enabled parties to reach agreement on and to succeed in garnering overwhelming support for this important resolution. Azerbaijan is pleased to be one of its co-sponsors.

At its sixty-fifth and sixty-sixth sessions, the General Assembly adopted two resolutions on the topic (resolutions 65/283 of 22 June 2011 and 66/291 of 13 September 2012) and the Secretary-General submitted a report, which contains the Guidance for Effective Mediation (A/66/811). Azerbaijan considers the unanimous adoption in 2011 of resolution 65/283 and the subsequent process as an essential effort towards providing the existing and future mediation mechanisms with useful guidance.

Azerbaijan's contribution to reinforcing the promotion of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution has manifested, inter alia, in initiating a series of discussions on the topic. Thus, during its presidency of the Security Council in May 2012, Azerbaijan organized an

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Arria-formula meeting of the Security Council to encourage a frank exchange of views on the role of mediation, judicial settlement and justice in promoting durable peace and reconciliation.

As part of its presidency of the Security Council in October 2013, Azerbaijan convened a high-level meeting on strengthening the partnership synergy between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). In its presidential statement S/PRST/2013/16, adopted as an outcome of the meeting, the Security Council, inter alia, recognized and further encouraged the active contribution of OIC to the work of the United Nations and noted that the two organizations share common objectives in fostering solutions to some specific issues of concern and other conflicts in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

In recent years, important progress has been achieved in enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and regional partners across a full range of areas, including the maintenance of international peace and security, the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution. Indeed, in a number of instances, the relevant regional organizations have proved to be indispensable mechanisms for promoting international and regional peace, security and cooperation, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

At the same time, serious challenges remain. While regional organizations are normally well-positioned to understand the causes of armed conflicts, owing to their knowledge of the region, it is obvious that not all of them can boast the ability, political will and institutional capacity to ensure compliance by Member States with their statutory commitments.

First and foremost, it is crucial that all Member States adhere to their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations. As a matter of priority, special attention should be given to the implementation of resolutions adopted by the principal organs of the United Nations, in particular those relating to the settlement of conflicts. In that regard, we consider it essential that, in resolutions 65/283 and 68/303, the General Assembly recalled all such resolutions related to the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, including through mediation. Such a reference obviously includes some unresolved protracted conflicts, which were addressed earlier by the General Assembly and the Security Council, in particular those pertaining to the illegal use of force and foreign occupation.

In that context, we welcome the reaffirmation in the resolution of the commitment to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States, as well as the explicit reference to the right of self-determination of peoples which remain under colonial domination or foreign occupation.

This approach ensures that no peace settlement is reached that is inconsistent with international law and provides guidance not only for the parties to the conflict but also for the international community as a whole and, when appropriate, mediation efforts undertaken at the regional and subregional levels.

As a country that is itself suffering from prolonged military occupation by the Republic of Armenia and the resultant large-scale ethnic cleansing of a significant

part of its territory, Azerbaijan strongly supports such an approach in addressing protracted conflicts and their military, humanitarian and human rights consequences. Against this background, the statement made by the delegation of Armenia at the plenary meeting on 31 July 2014 to disassociate itself from the consensus on resolution 68/303 is yet more evidence of that Member State's isolationist policy, disregard for international law and unwillingness to engage constructively in the ongoing conflict settlement process.

We look forward to further initiatives on the topic with the view of contributing to developing and implementing comprehensive peace strategies within particular frameworks, providing that dispute settlement and conflict resolution are based on respect for international law, the rule of law and for justice. Azerbaijan will continue to be an active partner in that process.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 33 (b), 34 and 38, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2014/565

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Note by the President of the Security Council

The members of the Security Council reaffirm that the work of the Council is a collective endeavour and responsibility, and that enhanced cooperation and consultation among all Council members is vital for the efficient and transparent functioning of the Council.

The members of the Security Council also reaffirm the importance of continuing to improve intra-Council dialogue, communication and exchange of information, especially in crisis or fast-evolving situations.

The members of the Security Council therefore agree to continue to enhance dialogue among all Council members, in particular in crisis or fast-evolving situations, so that the Council may respond more efficiently and therefore better fulfil its responsibility of maintaining international peace and security.

The members of the Security Council, in this context, recognize the important role of the President of the Security Council, including in facilitating communication and exchange of information.

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Sixty-ninth year

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts

Letter dated 4 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with instructions received from the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated 3 August 2014, in connection with the recent provocative offensive actions by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia from their positions in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and from the territory of Armenia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex urgently circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34, 38 and 77, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 4 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

3 August 2014

During the last several days, having violated the ceasefire regime in various directions along the Armenia-Azerbaijan border and the line of contact, the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia, the Occupying Power, have made several incursions into the positions of the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The reconnaissance and subversive groups of the armed forces of Armenia have made several attempts to cross the line of contact. These provocative actions by the Armenian side caused significant escalation along the front line and resulted in numerous human losses. The official Yerevan, which ordered these provocative actions, bears full responsibility for aggravating the dangerous situation.

Armenia's unconstructiveness in the negotiations, its interest in maintaining the status quo, its evasion of the Madrid peace plan, its refusal to comply with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, its policy of ruthless ethnic cleansing (the expulsion of over a million people from their native lands), and its latest provocative actions aimed at undermining the peace process — all these provide the strongest grounds to impose substantial sanctions against Armenia by the international community. The continued presence of Armenia's armed forces on the occupied territories of Azerbaijan remains the biggest threat to the peace process. Therefore, first and foremost, the armed forces of Armenia must withdraw from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. The earlier Armenia realizes this, the sooner peace, stability and predictability can be restored in the region.

The Ministry offers sincere condolences to the families of those sons of Azerbaijan who sacrificed their lives for the country's independence and territorial integrity. Let them rest in peace!

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 4 August 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

The Palestinian death toll continues to rise as Israel, the occupying Power, continues to trap, traumatize and terrorize the more than 1.8 million Palestinians living in the besieged Gaza Strip. The tragic and continuous climb in the number of casualties is reflective of the brutality and indiscriminate nature of Israel's ongoing onslaught against the Palestinian population in Occupied Gaza, in grave breach of all norms and rules of international humanitarian law and human rights law. The list of war crimes, crimes against humanity and acts of State terrorism by the occupying Power against the defenceless Palestinian civilians captive under its occupation is growing by the minute. It goes without saying that the Palestinian leadership, on behalf of its people, will exert every possible effort to ensure that those responsible for these heinous crimes are held accountable and brought to justice.

As of today, it is estimated that at least 1,850 Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces using all means of lethal weaponry and warfare. The shocking number of those killed includes 402 children, 241 women and 74 elderly persons. This number tragically translates to one Palestinian being killed by the occupying Power every hour during the past 28 days of this aggression. Even more telling of the disregard of Israel for civilian life and its deliberate killing of civilians is the fact that, as at 30 July, at least 76 families had lost three or more family members in the same incident, totalling 407 fatalities. Moreover, more than 9,450 people have been injured, including 2,805 children, 1,823 women and 342 elderly persons, by the Israeli occupying forces. Many of those injured are suffering from permanent disabilities and many have been severely burned, including many children who will have to live the rest of their lives with the physical and permanent memories of the savage brutality of Israel against them.

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The critical shortage of medical equipment and medicines has left many of those injured struggling to survive. According to the United Nations Gaza emergency situation report of 3 August 2014:

> Gaza's medical services and facilities are nearing collapse, with hospitals and clinics overwhelmed. Critical supplies of medicines and disposables are almost depleted and the destruction of power supplies has left hospitals dependent on unreliable backup generators. The status of hospitals and medical facilities as protected objects under international law continues to be violated with more attacks reported ...

This is in addition to the fact that medical officials are now reporting that cases of viral meningitis have increased from 5 to 53 per day, while Israeli attacks are preventing the collection of decomposing bodies, posing further and significant health risks, in addition to the rise of communicable diseases, particularly among the over 200,000 displaced civilians sheltering in schools of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

In addition to the above — and although a seven-hour humanitarian ceasefire was announced unilaterally by the occupying Power after world condemnation of the criminal shelling of yet another UNRWA school that resulted in the killing and injury of more innocent women, men and children — Israel has continued its attacks against Palestinian residential areas in Gaza. According to reports, Israeli occupying forces targeted the home of Al-Bakri family in Al-Shati Camp, killing a young girl, Aseel Al-Bakri, age 8, and injuring another 30 people.

Before moving on to the many other war crimes committed by the occupying Power, the Palestinian leadership wishes to put on record and to join the international community in the strong, unequivocal condemnation of the Israeli missile strike outside a United Nations school in Rafah on Sunday, 3 August. That strike killed at least 10 civilians, including 5 children, and wounded dozens of others, who had been sheltering at the school and were queuing for food rations at the time of the attack. United Nations officials stated that, as in previous times, they had informed the occupying Power of the exact location of the school, where approximately 3,000 Palestinians had sought refuge. In fact, UNRWA officials had informed the occupying Power 33 times in an attempt to prevent it from being bombed, the final time just one hour before the attack. We recognize the statement by the Secretary-General deeming this attack a "moral outrage and a criminal act", as well as the clear position of the State Department of the United States of America in this regard, including the statement that: "The suspicion that militants are operating nearby does not justify strikes that put at risk the lives of so many innocent civilians."

We continue to appeal to the international community for international protection to be provided to the Palestinian civilian population, which in Gaza is living under unbearable, inhumane circumstances, with no clean water, no electricity, shortages of food, medical equipment and supplies, and nowhere being safe from the Israeli onslaught. The humanitarian situation is appalling, with over 485,000 people, almost one quarter of Gaza's population, forcibly displaced and sheltering in UNRWA schools — with more than a quarter of a million people taking refuge in United Nations shelters alone — as well as in mosques, churches and hospitals, places they believe to be safe, but are all in fact areas that continue to be attacked by Israeli occupying forces.

All of the internally displaced are in need of emergency food assistance. Moreover, 1.5 million people not in shelters have no or extremely restricted access to water. There is an urgent need for drinking water and water for domestic use as well as access to sanitation and hygiene articles for the displaced. In its Gaza emergency situation update of 1 August 2014, the United Nations noted that: "The establishment of primary health clinics in shelters, alongside the delivery of multivitamins and antibiotics, is urgently needed to avoid the outbreak of infectious diseases." And today, Gaza is witnessing just that, as insecticides and medicines are needed in Rafah to treat epidemics, such as lice and scabies, which have started to spread in shelters.

Moreover, to date, since 8 July, Israel's war on Gaza has now caused over $5 billion in damage to homes and infrastructure in Gaza. At least 5,510 homes have been completely destroyed, and 30,000 homes partially destroyed, including numerous multistorey buildings. At least 24 medical facilities and 141 schools have been damaged by Israeli shelling. At least six teachers are known to have been killed. Psychological trauma among the Palestinian people continues to rise and there are now 373,000 children who require specialized psychosocial support owing to trauma caused by the death or injury of someone they know or the loss of their home. Of course, the number of those women and men who have had to bury their children and other members of their family or who have witnessed this man-made catastrophe unleashed by the occupying Power and lost basically everything is extremely high and requires immediate attention as well.

In addition to what is mentioned above, below is a list of just a small fraction of the multiple grave violations committed by Israel, the occupying Power, since our latest letter of 1 August 2014 (A/ES-10/647-S/2014/563), many of them amounting to war crimes, that we are compelled to convey to you. We will continue to keep you informed of the escalating situation on the ground once information becomes available in order to document more fully these crimes against our people.

3 August 2014:

- Ten members of the Al-Ghoul family, including three children and two women, were killed, and 20 others injured by an Israeli missile attack on their home in Rafah. The dead included a baby who was less than three weeks old
- Eight members of the Najim family were killed, and 30 others wounded, by an Israeli airstrike on a home in the Jabaliya refugee camp. Those who were killed had returned to Jabaliya after the Israeli occupying forces announced on Saturday that residents of northern Gaza could go back to their homes. Among the dead were Bilal Abd al-Karim Najim, Abd al-Karim Najim, Ahmad Abd al-Karim Najim, Raghad Najim and Suha Najim
- The Al-Amal hospital in Khan Yunis was reportedly hit by an Israeli missile

2 August 2014:

- Six members of the Abu Madi family were killed, including four children, when Israeli occupying forces fired a missile into their home in Al-Nuseirat refugee camp

1 August 2014:

- As was mentioned in our letter on 1 August 2014, the Israeli occupying forces killed at least 150 Palestinians (at the time of our letter the number had been 130) and wounded hundreds of others in Gaza after Israel declared the 72-hour humanitarian ceasefire over, which had been set in place after intense international and regional efforts were exerted. At the time, the occupying Power had falsely asserted that an Israeli occupying soldier had been taken as a prisoner of war by Palestinians (he was later declared dead by Israel). In Rafah alone, near where the occupying soldier went missing, at least 123 people were killed, including 30 children and 14 women
- The Israeli occupying forces shelled Al-Najjar hospital in Rafah, forcing the evacuation of patients and staff

There is no doubt that the situation today throughout the occupied State of Palestine, from the Gaza Strip to the West Bank, where the occupying Power continues to carry out measures of collective punishment and unleash excessive and indiscriminate force against the Palestinian people, is beyond grave. The Palestinian leadership continues to call for an immediate ceasefire with the aim of bringing an end to the slaughter of our people and an end to this crisis, and therefore a Palestinian delegation travelled to Cairo for talks this past weekend to cement an end to the bloodshed. As of now, however, the Israeli side has refused to attend the talks, remaining intransigent, acting unilaterally and persisting with its war against our people. Yet, the Palestinian side continues to seek a ceasefire and comprehensive solutions to the problems that have for so long plagued Gaza, including the illegal Israeli blockade. Thus, the Palestinian side, on all fronts, has jointly proposed points on the way forward and has presented them to Egyptian and American mediators in Cairo.

The proposal for a ceasefire includes the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, the end of the Israeli siege of Gaza and the sustained and regular opening of its border crossings, fishing rights up to 12 nautical miles off Gaza's coast and the release of Palestinian prisoners. In this regard, we call on the international community to exert all efforts for the occupying Power to engage in talks based on the minimum requirements, including respect for international law, that have been proposed by the Palestinian side in order to address concretely the catastrophic situation in Gaza and achieve a permanent and durable ceasefire to end the bloodshed and massacre against the Palestinian people by the occupying Power. If that effort is to succeed, the international community must be ready and willing to then exert all efforts to address the core issues that have for too long gone unaddressed in order to reach a just, comprehensive and lasting peace that today is needed more than ever.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 514 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 1 August 2014 (A/ES-10/647-S/2014/563), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations